



Wednesday
MAY 21, 2014

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

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it clean **30**

Channing
Tatum's true
confessions **42**

love

means never
having to say

Ansari

Rom-comic's latest tour
gets real about relationships
pages 22-23



Aziz Ansari
GETTY IMAGES/FILE

BY JULIA BORCHERTS FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM



EAT

IT'S TIME FOR A CRABBIE'S NIGHT Pizza Rustica

3908 N. Sheridan Road 773-404-8955

Taste samples of Crabbie's alcoholic ginger beer in the original flavor and new **spiced orange flavor** (5-8:30 p.m.), and dine on it, too—in \$7-\$11 appetizers and \$16-\$22 entrees, including ginger beer- and bourbon-marinated ribs with grilled polenta and roasted duck white pizza with caramelized onions and sauteed spiced orange cherries. 5-10 p.m. No cover.



Moth Grandslam host Don Hall

DRINK



MILLER LITE HAPPY HOUR

Two North Riverside Plaza

The brand launches a social media photo contest—\$1,000 per day is awarded for 100 days—at this bash featuring complimentary appetizers and Miller Lite, music and the opportunity to take photos with the 35-foot world's largest film camera. Post your pics with the hashtag **#ItsMillerTime** for a chance to win the cash. 4-7 p.m.

DO

THE MOTH GRANDSLAM

Park West

322 W. Armitage Ave. 773-929-1322

A dozen winners from the monthly storytelling contest compete for the citywide crown with five-minute stories on the theme of "The Showdown." WBEZ's Don Hall hosts. 8 p.m. \$20.

Tickets: jamusa.com/park-west

BURLY MAC

The Burlington

3425 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-384-3243

The monthly dance party for burly and/or bearded folks and their friends pays tribute to Stevie Nicks' 66th birthday with Fleetwood Mac and Stevie originals, remixes, covers and more from DJ Joe Erbentraut. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover.



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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Plan your playoffs-viewing schedule with Metromix's guide to 50-plus Blackhawks bars: chicago.metromix.com

GOOSE

Summer Camp Music Festival Sponsored by Goose Island Beer Company

When: Friday, May 23 - Sunday, May 25
(Music starts 11 PM Friday)

Where: Three Sisters Park • 17201 Illinois 29
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Tickets: 3-Day Gen Admin \$214.50

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For tickets and more info visit summercampfestival.com





Protesters on Monday block one of the entrances to a University of Chicago hospital construction site.
MICHAEL TERCHA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Protesters press for U of C trauma center

Chicago Tribune

Upset there is no trauma center that serves adults on the South Side, demonstrators are pressing again this week for the University of Chicago to reopen the unit it closed in 1988. The protesters, some of them clergy members, say it's incongruous for the university to seek President Obama's library without offering trauma care to those living near its Hyde Park campus.

"We're suggesting that if they want to have the first black president's national library and museum, they need to do a little more for the black people who are right next door to them," said Veronica Morris-Moore, 21, a South Shore resident who has been active in the campaign for a trauma center. "Our suggestion is that Barack Obama places his library with someone who cares about the black community."

Most nights on the South Side, someone is shot. The bullets pierce men and women, girls and boys, innocent bystanders and hardened gangsters. For adults, the ambulance ride to a

PROTEST PLANNED

On Wednesday, the union that represents nurses at University of Chicago Medical Center is planning a bus tour of what it calls the South Side's "trauma desert."

trauma center can cross the city and cost precious time.

Chicago has four Level I trauma centers for adults, according to the Illinois Hospital Association, with locations on the Near North, North, Near West and West sides. Suburban trauma centers in Oak Lawn, Maywood, Park Ridge and Evanston are also in Cook County.

But some South Side residents would have to travel more than 10 miles by ambulance to reach a trauma center.

A 2013 Northwestern University study used data from Chicago shootings to show that gunshot patients more than five miles from a trauma center have a lower chance of survival.

Level I trauma centers are designed to treat severely injured patients and have resources

beyond those of a standard emergency room. The facilities have general surgeons available at all times and provide prompt access to specialized care.

University of Chicago officials say they're committed to engaging with the South Side and providing medical care to its residents, but they believe it's unfair to expect the university alone to shoulder the costly burden of a trauma center. They've indicated a willingness to be part of a "regional effort" to offer trauma care, but no such solution has materialized.

U. of C. officials note that their hospitals continue to offer a trauma center for children up to age 16, as well as a neonatal intensive care unit and the only burn unit on the South Side.

Opening a trauma center for adults, they said in a statement Monday, "would compromise the medical center's ability to support these critical services." The university declined to make hospital executives available for interviews.

Demonstrators have long pressed the university to reopen its trauma unit, but tying that desire to the Obama presidential library is a relatively new talking point.

The University of Chicago, where the president once taught, is considered a leading candidate to house the library. The facility is a potential boon for tourism and research and is being courted by a number of sites in the city, as well as others in New York and Hawaii.

The Rev. Alice Harper-Jones, whose church is near both the university's campus and the president's Kenwood neighborhood house, believes strongly that Obama's library should be built on Chicago's South Side. But asked whether the U. of C. would be an appropriate host, Harper-Jones said, "Absolutely not."

"If they open a trauma center, then they're showing they care about the needs of the community," said Harper-Jones, an associate pastor at Kenwood United Church of Christ. "At this point, they haven't shown that they're really concerned about the needs of the community."

The good book of Michael Sam



Nikki Lynette

» redeye@tribune.com
» @nikkilynette

On the ride home from my cousin's graduation last week, I showed some relatives a photo of a guy I think is kind of hot—Michael Sam. I explained that he was the first openly gay player to enter the NFL, anticipating some shocked reactions. Here's what I wasn't expecting to hear: "What a waste," "He's gonna burn in the fires of hell with all the rest of them" and "God made Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

Maybe it's because, as a recording artist, I surround myself with hella-liberal folks, but most of the people in my life are pretty accepting of the fact that sometimes dudes love other dudes. But for every person with a "to each his own" attitude, there is another one out there using their holy book to justify their biases. That pisses me off. And as soon as I climb way up on my high horse to defend equality for all, something quasi-scandalous happens, like the Michael Sam televised kiss or the Michael Sam reality TV show or the Michael Sam glow-in-the-dark scented underwear. OK, the scented underwear isn't a real thing ... yet.

Yet in spite of the fact I am going to incur the wrath of the Michael Sam fans by saying this, I was glad when the OWN Network announced his reality show had been postponed. It's just another example of someone being singled out for being gay. It's tough to make the argument that Sam's presence in the NFL is a huge step for equal rights when his love life is being exploited with the same ferocity as a celebrity wedding.

Is it a big deal that a door finally has been opened for gay football players? Yes. Oppression for one group means oppression for us all; ain't nobody got time for that. But being a gay guy is not what earned Sam his accolades—being an exceptionally gifted athlete did. And anything that distracts from that fact actually hurts his chances of success.

One day, a person's sexual orientation will not be headline news. And when that day comes, future generations will look back at 2014 and think of us the way we remember those who fought against equal rights for blacks and women. Hopefully I'll see it in my lifetime. But what I said to my family that day in the car was true: If I happen to have a gay kid some day, I hope everyone will be able to love and accept them for who they are inside. Because whoever doesn't will truly bring out the devil in me.

NIKKI LYNETTE IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



Michael Sam addresses the media during a May 13 press conference at Rams Park in Earth City, Mo. GETTY IMAGES

A kiss is just a kiss—accept it



Zach Stafford

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» @zachstafford

On the final day of the 2014 NFL draft, Michael Sam sat in his agent's San Diego, Calif., home, waiting for a call that would change his life.

The draft has been televised for years, with camera crews waiting to catch the emotional moment when NFL hopefuls are chosen. These celebrations are filled with affection, played over and over as experts analyze players' futures.

Michael Sam's moment was no different—when he was drafted

by the St. Louis Rams, he kissed his boyfriend, just like his fellow picks did with their girlfriends. But when the image flashed across TV screens, many viewers cringed. Some have even decided to boycott the Rams.

Over the past few years, the LGBT movement has made unprecedented strides toward equality. From marriage to the media and now in sports, it seems LGBT people are on track to be more represented than ever. That's why the outrage over Sam's kiss is so important. Even as marriage rolls across America, as more openly LGBT people join professional sports teams, TV shows or the armed forces, we still aren't there. LGBT people are OK, as long as they stay behind closed doors—and especially off sports networks.

The LGBT movement's goal has been tolerance, and we allowed ourselves to buy into the falsehood that tolerance is enough. That we don't need everyone to like us but instead just deal with us. That's starting to seem like a failed strategy. It allows people such as retired NFL player Derrick Ward to tweet, "I'm sorry but that Michael Sam is no bueno for doing that on national tv. I'm fine with it being a new day in age but for him to do that on National tv is disgusting. Gay or not."

Instead of tolerance, we need to push for acceptance. That's more than voting "yes" for marriage. Acceptance means watching ESPN without cringing when men kiss. It's allowing same-sex people to kiss in public without fearing that it will send them to the hospital.

And honestly, it's allowing same-sex couples to be as boring and mundane as straight people are.

LGBT people need to be shown as more than a marriage victory or an allowance into the military. We need to be seen as whole people who love, laugh, hurt, cry and, most importantly, kiss people when we are happy. Because really, at the end of the day, it's just a kiss.

ZACH STAFFORD IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

CORRECTION The May 20 cover page and associated story about Chicago's Humboldt Park-based record label Closed Sessions incorrectly identified rapper Vic Mensa as Rockie Fresh.



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CTA: Ventra used in 90 percent of rides

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

Nine in 10 CTA rides are paid for with Ventra cards as the CTA moves to eliminate use of Chicago Cards in less than two weeks, spokeswoman Tammy Chase said Tuesday.

On June 1, riders no longer will be allowed to use their Chicago Cards or load money onto disposable fare cards as the CTA prepares to fully transition to Ventra in July. The agency stopped letting riders reload their Chicago Cards and buy disposable cards May 1.

In the past two weeks, a few holdouts have switched to Ventra. Ventra is used to pay for 90 percent of CTA rides, according to data for the week ending May 10.

Before the CTA stopped allowing reloads of Chicago Cards and the sale of disposable cards May 1, Ventra was used to pay for 86 percent of CTA rides.

The CTA is working to fully transition July 1, when it will only accept Ventra cards and some banking cards on trains and Ventra, some banking cards or cash on buses.

Riders who have not yet switched to Ventra may not want to wait until the last minute because they may encounter lengthier call times than usual.

During the May 1 transition, the Ventra call center experienced a higher-than-usual call volume. From April 28 to 30, the call center saw an average of more than 4,000 calls, compared to a nearly 3,000-call average for the rest of the month, according to an April Ventra performance report the agency posted this week.

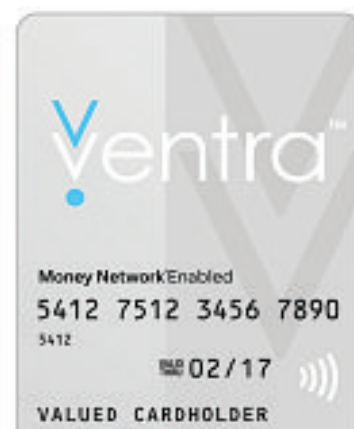
On April 30, more than half of the calls to Ventra were placed on hold, which was the highest percentage of April. Average hold time on April 30 was 1 minute, 44 seconds—well below the CTA's five-minute call-hold target.

One of the reasons the CTA slowed the transition to Ventra last year was because of lengthy call-wait times, a performance standard the CTA said Ventra consistently has been exceeding.

Another reason the CTA didn't fully switch to Ventra last year was because of how long it took Ventra card readers to register a tapped card. The agency now is touting an improvement on bus tap times because of upgrades.

On April 30, average tap times were 0.55 seconds on buses and 0.42 seconds on trains. At the beginning of April, bus tap times averaged 0.75 seconds. Chase credited the decrease to Ventra reader upgrades made on buses.

The rail tap time consistently hovered at or



VENTRA ROLLOUT DEADLINES

JUNE						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

June 1: No reloading will be allowed for magnetic-stripe cards. Chicago Cards and Chicago Card Plus will **no longer be accepted**.

JULY				
	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29
30	31			

July 1: All old farecards will **no longer be accepted**. Transfer cards will no longer be issued on Pace buses.

SOURCE: CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY TRIBUNE

below 0.5 seconds for April, according to the report. The agency's goal is to have taps processed in 2.5 seconds or less.

» The CTA on Wednesday will host a meeting about its \$1.13 billion proposal to overhaul four Red Line stations, from Lawrence to Bryn Mawr, and corresponding tracks. The hearing is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.

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The parking lots between McCormick Place and Soldier Field are the proposed Chicago museum site for George Lucas' collection of art and movie memorabilia. **MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE**

Parking lot site proposed for 'Star Wars' museum

Chicago Tribune

A task force appointed by Mayor Emanuel recommended parking lots to the south of Soldier Field as the home for filmmaker George Lucas' collection of art and movie memorabilia, should the "Star Wars" creator choose Chicago over San Francisco for his planned museum.

Lucas is expected to select a site for his Lucas Cultural Arts Museum this summer, according to a museum spokeswoman.

The proposed site, two Chicago Park District-owned parking lots, is located between the stadium and McCormick Place and within walking distance of the Museum Campus.

The land would be leased to the museum for \$1, which is similar to the arrangement other large cultural institutions have with the Chicago Park District. However, unlike other museums, the Lucas museum would not receive taxpayer subsidies to cover a portion of its operations, said senior mayoral adviser David Spielfogel.

The task force's theory is that the museum, which would hold artwork and more than 500,000 pieces of movie memorabilia, would draw in conventioners on foot while also creating a new lakefront park on land that is now asphalt, according to the 56-page report obtained by the Tribune.

"The recommendation is very thoughtful and a fitting site for the type of museum and educational partner the city of Chicago is looking for, and it would complete our mu-

seum campus, which is world-class and brings people from all over the world," Emanuel said Tuesday.

The site is about 15 acres, and the footprint of a museum the size of The Field Museum would be about 5 acres, leaving 10 acres for new parkland, Spielfogel said.

Meanwhile, the lots, known as the south surface lot and the Waldron parking deck/garage, which are home to thousands of tailgaters during Bears' home games, would be moved underground at Lucas' expense, according to a city official. The report does not detail if or where tailgating would be permitted in that area; but grills and open fire pits already are prohibited in the stadium's north garage.

"You can kiss tailgating at Soldier Field as we know it good-bye if this deal gets done," said Rob Radulski of Algonquin, who attends tailgates in those lots. "Where would thousands of people go? There are plenty of locations south of McCormick Place down the lakefront to build on. Why not expand economically there?"

The Bears said they were not warned of the task force's recommendation in advance.

"We learned of the task force's recommendation this morning and have not had an opportunity to review the report," the Bears said in a statement Tuesday. "Mayor Emanuel called us to stress his commitment to working together to create a win-win situation for everyone."

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Cop placed on desk duty

Chicago Tribune

Chicago Police placed a veteran officer on paid desk duty Monday—the same day a security video was made public allegedly showing him striking a female manager of a massage parlor during a vice raid last summer.

Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy, who made the disclosure Tuesday, defended the department's training but promised to hold officers accountable for misconduct.

"It's obviously behavior that we do not condone and we're not going to tolerate in this department," McCarthy said at a press conference on an unrelated topic.

"Look, we make mistakes all the time. ... We're still paying for [Jon] Burge. We're still paying for [Anthony] Abbate," McCarthy

said in reference to two disgraced cops whose misconduct besmirched the department's reputation.

"We're paying for things that happened 20 and 30 years ago in some cases," he continued later. "The Burge case goes back to the '80s. And when I say paying for it, I'm not even talking about it financially. I'm talking about an image and the way people look at the department."

A federal lawsuit filed by the parlor manager, Jianqing Klyzek, alleges she was slapped on the head while she was on her knees and her hands were cuffed behind her back. The suit also contends another officer threatened her and hurled ethnic slurs at Klyzek, a U.S. citizen who is a Chinese native.



The Chicago Fire Dept. works at the scene where two men were pulled from Lake Michigan at 31st Street. Police said the men were pronounced dead at Mercy Hospital. **ERIC CLARK PHOTO FOR THE TRIBUNE**

EXPRESS LINES

» Mayor Emanuel announced Tuesday the creation of a committee that will discuss the pros and cons of raising the city's minimum wage and report back to him.

» At least eight empty storefronts on Clark Street in Lincoln Park have building and safety code violations, according to a message from Ald. Michele Smith (43rd). The city is suing the owners of the buildings over the violations.

» Chicago's Wiener's Circle hot dog stand will open three locations in Las Vegas this summer, including the first outpost at the Red Rock Casino Resort & Spa, opening in June.

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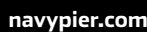
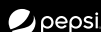
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CIA: No more vaccination campaigns in spy ops

WASHINGTON Three years after the CIA used an immunization survey as a cover in its hunt for Osama bin Laden, the White House has promised that the Central Intelligence Agency will never again use a vaccination campaign in its operations, an official said Monday.

Responding to a letter from the deans of 12 U.S. public health schools, Lisa Monaco, the assistant to the president for homeland security and counterterrorism, informed them last week that the CIA will no longer conduct such campaigns, White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said.

The deans wrote to President Obama in January 2013 to protest the precedent set when the CIA used Shakil Afridi, a Pakistani surgeon, to seek information about bin Laden under the guise of conducting a hepatitis immunization survey in the northwest city where the al-Qaida leader was later killed in a raid. The goal of the immunization survey was to obtain fluid containing DNA from relatives living near the bin Laden residence.

The effort failed and Afridi was convicted of treason in Pakistan. He has been sentenced to 23 years in prison.

"This disguising of an intelligence-gathering effort as a humanitarian public health service has resulted in serious collateral consequences that affect the public health community," the deans wrote.

The administration's response on Friday said that under CIA policy, established by CIA Director John Brennan in August 2013, "The Agency will make no operational use of vaccination programs, which includes vaccination workers." The letter also said the agency "will not seek to obtain or exploit DNA or other genetic material acquired through such programs."

A CIA spokesman said Brennan "took seriously the concerns raised by the public health community."

International aid organizations were forced to move some of their staff members out of Pakistan, and some health workers were killed in a backlash against a polio vaccination effort.



World Champion Christian Sprenger of Australia swims for children with special needs on the rooftop pool of the Marina Bay Sands resort hotel in Singapore on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

Thai army condemned for martial law

The Royal Thai Army's imposition of martial law nationwide Tuesday drew condemnation from human rights groups and thrust the Southeast Asian kingdom into deeper political uncertainty stemming from months of anti-government protests.

Britain praises New York terror conviction

The British government Tuesday praised the terrorism conviction in New York of a radical Muslim cleric it spent a decade trying to expel to the U.S. for prosecution and vowed to prevent such drawn-out extraditions from happening again.

GM recalls more vehicles

General Motors is recalling an additional 2.42 million vehicles in four separate recalls, including an expansion of the Chevy Malibu recall that was announced May 16. GM has recalled 13.6 million vehicles so far in 2014, according to Automotive News.

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DAY 35

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You can help raise money for Blackhawks Charities by participating in the team's Beard-a-thon. Visit beardathon.com/blackhawks.

SERIES SCHEDULE

GAME	DATE	WHERE	TV
Game 1		Blackhawks 3, Los Angeles 1	
Game 2	7 p.m. Wed.	United Center	NBCSN
Game 3	7 p.m. Sat.	Los Angeles	NBC
Game 4	8 p.m. May 26	Los Angeles	NBCSN
Game 5	7 p.m. May 28	United Center*	NBCSN
Game 6	8 p.m. May 30	Los Angeles*	NBCSN
Game 7	7 p.m. June 1	United Center*	NBCSN

* If necessary

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE?

Hawks tickets are so hot, it's tough to tell the fakes from the real deal

By **Leonor Vivanco** | REDEYE

Now that so many in Chicago have caught Blackhawks fever again, tickets to home playoff games are in high demand.

Secondary markets such as StubHub, eBay, Craigslist and other brokers are trying to unload tickets, and it's likely scalpers outside the United Center will, too. But how will fans make sure they don't get duped into buying counterfeits, and what should they do if they end up with fakes?

It's a question Kate O'Hara recently faced.

O'Hara made a last-minute decision to go with her roommate to see Theresa Caputo, star of the TLC show "Long Island Medium," at the Chicago Theatre in April.

FOLLOW US ON GAME DAY

RedEye brings you photos, GIFs, video and more from the United Center on Wednesday as the Hawks try to take a 2-0 lead in their series against L.A. Follow our live blog at redeyechicago.com.

"They checked StubHub and saw tickets for at least \$100 each but found cheaper tickets for \$75 on Craigslist the day of the event.

"We figured someone couldn't go last minute and maybe wanted to sell them for whatever they could get," said O'Hara, 25, of Lincoln Park.

They talked to the seller and agreed to meet him 45 minutes before showtime at a

South Loop Dunkin' Donuts to buy three tickets. He was late, leaving them only 15 minutes until showtime.

They quickly glanced at the tickets, which were printed on thick paper with perforated edges. O'Hara and her roommate thought they looked legitimate and handed him \$225 in cash, she said.

"Looking back, I should not have been so naive and realized this was all part of his plan," O'Hara said. "I would never do that to somebody. This guy looks me in the eye and takes my money and knows in 10 minutes I'm going to be pissed off when the barcode doesn't work."

When they tried to enter the theater, the barcodes on the tickets did not scan prop-





“ Taking time to do research before spending a large sum of money on playoff tickets is crucial. When searching for tickets, it is easy to become blinded by what looks like a good deal.”

—Steve Bernas, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau in Chicago

erly. Upon closer inspection, O'Hara said the font printed on the tickets wasn't consistent, and the copy on the back of the ticket stub was blurry.

In hindsight, O'Hara said, "It felt funny when doing it, but we were in such a rush that our instincts didn't catch up with our

actions." She said she would advise others to "slow down and let your instincts catch up with logic" to help avoid getting scammed.

O'Hara said she filed complaints with the Federal Trade Commission, the Illinois Attorney General and the FBI.

O'Hara never encountered a problem using Craigslist before. She found her apartment, bought concert tickets and sold items through the site. But she said for tickets, she'll opt for more reputable sellers.

"Taking time to do research before spending a large sum of money on playoff tickets is crucial," Steve Bernas, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau in Chicago and Northern Illinois, said in a statement. "When searching for tickets, it is easy to become blinded by what looks like a good deal."

The BBB and Illinois Attorney General's Office suggest making sure the ticket broker is licensed in Illinois, is a member

FAT PROFITS FOR FORGERIES

A 29-year-old Bolingbrook man was charged last week with selling counterfeit tickets to a Blackhawks regular-season game. It's merely one case in a growing problem involving forgeries, authorities say. A spokesman for the National Intellectual Property Rights Center, headed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the money from selling counterfeit tickets and other goods is so tempting that it has moved beyond a bad guy with a high-quality printer.

"With counterfeiting, the profit margin is so great that in some cases it's greater than selling drugs," agency spokesman Justin Cole said. "That's why we're seeing more gangs and organized crime turning to selling counterfeits to fund their criminal operations." **TRIBUNE**

of the National Association of Ticket Brokers and provides clear transaction terms such as whether tickets are guaranteed and what the broker's refund policy is.

The Hawks, for example, point to Ticketmaster and the NHL Ticket Exchange by Ticketmaster as the "official" places to buy tickets. The exchange, which allows for the resale of tickets at market prices, electronically validates the bar codes on tickets using Ticketmaster's verification technology to make sure tickets are authentic.

StubHub said it aims to protect buyers with its guarantee to try to find replacement tickets or give a refund for the tickets if the ones bought and ordered through its site are invalid.

Craigslist states on its site that it isn't involved in any transaction and doesn't provide buyer protection.

More than 130 complaints were filed and more than 32,000 consumers contacted the Chicago BBB in the past year for pre-purchase information about companies in the "Ticket Sales—Events" category.

The BBB urges buyers not to pay for tickets in cash or with a wire payment. Instead, they should pay with a credit card if they need to later dispute the charge. Also, users should avoid sites that lack privacy, refund and cancellation policies or fail to provide contact information.

Ticket buyers should also verify the location of the seats on a venue seating chart to make sure they exist and are not obstructed, and check several sites to compare prices and ticket availability, the BBB said.

"The most common way sports fans are getting scammed online is by either paying for counterfeit tickets or tickets that never arrive," Bernas said. "If something seems too good to be true, it most likely is."

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16

15

14

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6

5

4

3

2

1

7 WINS TO GO

GOOSEY

Who let Canada Goose in? Oh well, at least he's not bombarding us with Montreal Canadiens talk again.



Mick Swasko
@swasko
Redeye reporter



Ernest Wilkins
@ernestwilkins
Chicago's wingman



Soxman
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Caped Sox Crusader



Brad Zibung
@theheckler
Editor in Chief of The Heckler



Canada Goose
@redeye_sportsch/

Foul fowl from the Great White North

1	Now that Niklas Hjalmarsson can talk again, what would you like him to say?	"THIS IS SPARTA."	"I am here to crush Los Angeles."	"Seven more wins to go." It's what everyone should be saying! Go Hawks!	"Mealball." (Thank you, Blackhawks TV.)	"Honk."
2	Why are Marian Hossa and Jonathan Toews so good defensively?	Anagram generator says their names rearrange to "Asses hot, aw."	Slovakian Muscle, Canadian Hustle. That sounds like a bad '70s cop show.	They vowed not to be the same as the Chicago Bears last year.	Even when they're on defense, they're playing like they're on offense.	Toews, because he's Canadian like I am. Hossa, no idea.
3	How much would you pay for a piece of turf from your favorite team's field?	I'd pay for a piece of Lambeau and donate it to a dog-training shelter.	I ain't no snitch but I might already have some. #GoNoles	If I gave up one of my little piggies, would it be known as a turf toe?	My favorite team is the A-Team, and they didn't play on turf, unless you count Mr. T's mohawk.	Remember when the Hawks sold United Center ice vials for \$99 each? It's worth 10 times that in Canada.
4	Signing a contract extension on "The View" is like getting a draft call during "Oprah's Favorite Things."	See next question.	... guaranteed growth in the Bears female fan demographic. Brilliant work!	... taking your life in your own hands, what with anti-vaxxer Jenny McCarthy sitting right there and all.	... swimming in ice-cold Lake Michigan. Sometimes it just feels like the right thing to do.
5	Why are the Sky playing at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday?	They want to be well-rested to watch the Hawks like the rest of us.	They signed a new deal with "The View" for a show called "Sky View." Darren Rovell loved the move!	Well, if they played at 007, we might see a Skyfall.	Probably something to do with school field trips, or maybe they need to clear out Allstate Arena for a rodeo later that day.	So they can go play outside afterward! Finally, I'm not freezing my feathers off.

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Green Bay Packers player Charles Martin (left) checks on Jim McMahon after slamming the Bears QB during a 1986 game at Soldier Field. EDWARD WAGNER/TRIBUNE FILE

Lawsuit: NFL teams pushed drug use

Chicago Tribune

The NFL faces new litigation from former players—including three members of the Super Bowl XX champion Bears—after a lawsuit was filed Tuesday claiming the league illegally administered painkilling drugs and encouraged the athletes to play while injured.

Lawyers are seeking class-action status for the suit, which features eight named plaintiffs—including former Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, defensive end Richard Dent and tackle Keith Van Horne—and more than 500 retained plaintiffs.

The suit alleges that the NFL and its teams prioritized profit over health while subjecting players to a “culture of drug misuse” in which injuries were improperly diagnosed and treated and players’ returns to the field were expedited by the unethical and illegal administration of narcotics and other painkilling drugs.

An NFL spokesman said Tuesday that the league’s attorneys had yet to review the suit and that the league would not offer comment at this time.

An associate of McMahon’s told the Tribune that the former QB would not comment on the suit. Van Horne was unavailable for comment. Attempts to reach Dent were unsuccessful.

In an 85-page complaint filed in U.S. District Court in California, there is no shortage

of alarming allegations.

McMahon, who played for six teams during his 15 years in the NFL, contends in the suit that he received “hundreds if not thousands” of shots from doctors plus high volumes of pills from trainers without any warnings from the NFL on possible side effects.

Van Horne asserts in the lawsuit that during a playoff game, he could not lift one of his arms but was given four Percodan, an anti-inflammatory narcotic, during the game to allow him to play.

Van Horne also alleges he played an entire season on a broken leg and that team doctors and officials never disclosed to him the extent of his injury.

And Dent says in the suit that he has permanent nerve damage in his foot from a broken bone he suffered during a 1990 game in Seattle. Rather than have surgery to fix the injury, the suit says, Dent was encouraged by the Bears medical staff to use painkillers to keep playing.

The plaintiffs of the class-action suit are seeking financial compensation for their “long-term chronic injuries, financial losses, expenses, pain and suffering, mental anguish and other losses they have suffered as a result of that misconduct, and medical monitoring for the problems they suffer from and future problems they will suffer.”

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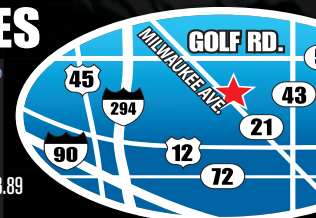
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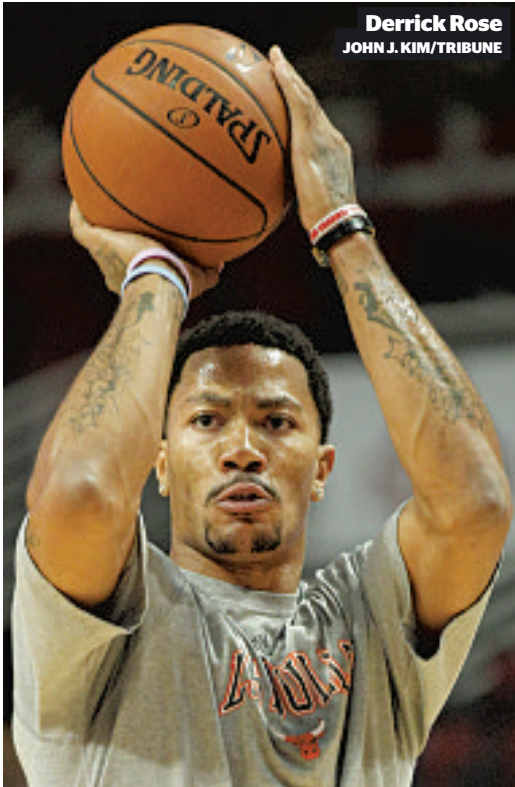


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Lucy Li
GETTY
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THE DIGIT
11 Lucy Li, a California sixth-grader, made history Monday as the 11-year-old became the youngest to ever qualify for the U.S. Women's Open. And get this: She beat the second-place finisher by a whopping seven strokes over the two-day qualifying tournament.



Derrick Rose
JOHN J. KIM/TRIBUNE

HOT DATE
AUG. 30 If all goes well, Derrick Rose could be in action for Team USA when it opens World Cup play in Spain. "We expect him to be there that last week of July when we're choosing the team in Vegas," Mike Krzyzewski said during an ESPN podcast. "He can't make the team unless he's ready to go full bore. And knowing Derrick, I would think he'll be ready, and hopefully he'll be 100 percent."

Not-so-sweet home
A \$60 million high school football stadium in Allen, Texas, in use for only two years since it opened in 2012, was deemed unsafe for next season due to design flaws and unstable concrete. The stadium designer and builder are working with the school district to find a solution, but the 18,000-seat facility will not be available for the fall football season. Unstable concrete? Unfortunately, Cubs fans can relate.

Game-time decision, maybe?
Andrew Shaw is getting closer to returning to the Blackhawks after his lower-body injury. But all coach Joel Quenneville would say Tuesday on whether he'd play against L.A. in Game 2 was, "We'll see on that." "I feel like I'm ready to play, but that's not my decision to make," Shaw said. "I'm getting prepared like I'm going to play [Wednesday]."

THE FINISH LINE » White Sox 7, Kansas City 6 » Cubs 6, N.Y. Yankees 1 » Former Bears linebacker Mike Singletary named senior adviser to NFL



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comedy

STAND-UP Guy

Aziz Ansari answers our dating questions in advance of his 'Modern Romance' tour

By Sean Ely | REDEYE

Compare the dating scene a decade ago to today's vibe and you couldn't have two more opposite entities. Texting, sexting, Facebook messaging, Tinder using, Snapchatting ... the list goes on and on.

Enter Aziz Ansari, a South Carolina-born comic who can not only riff on the subject, but draw from personal moments that prove "we're all dealing with the same nonsense," he said.

Ansari, 31, best known for his role as Tom Haverford on NBC's "Parks and Recreation," is in the midst of his "Modern Romance" comedy tour, which lands in Chicago for four shows (7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday) at the Chicago Theatre. It's Ansari's fourth major tour since 2010.

"There is a saying, 'The most personal is the most universal,'" Ansari said. "You take a situation like trying to text some guy or

girl that you're attracted to and the pain and angst that comes with that, the frustrations ... it's usually a very private thing. You're sitting there alone, staring at your phone, wondering what this person is going to say or what they're thinking, and if you talk about that stuff, something that personal, and blow it out and make it a big thing that thousands of people can laugh at, at the same time? I think it kind of is fun, and people think, 'Oh, we're all in this [bleep] together, we're all in the same boat, we're all dealing with the same nonsense. It's universal, ... it's not just me.'"

When it comes to his own dating life, Ansari said his celebrity status hasn't changed his experience as much as you might think. "I always compare dating to when I drop into a comedy club unannounced to try out new material," he said. "For the first few minutes, you can coast on your charm, but after that? You have to be funny or they won't like you."

To gear up for "Modern Romance" landing in Chicago, we grilled Ansari with dating questions dreamed up by the RedEye staff. He wasn't so hopeful going in—"I have no good advice. I would take this with a grain of salt,"—but he humored us.



Aziz Ansari
LOS ANGELES TIMES FILE

Social media pet peeves

Aziz Ansari is one of our favorite Instagram users, so we asked him to rattle off his thoughts about some major social networks.



FACEBOOK

"I don't really use Facebook that much. I don't like when the ads come up."



TWITTER

"It's a time suck. I try not to check that ... because you can get stuck down a rabbit hole. It's always the same stuff."



TUMBLR

"I just post stuff, because I feel once you start [checking other people's pages], there's always going to be something new to see. ... I used to do that, but I had to stop because I was like 'I'm not getting anything done.'"



I went on a date and the person was chewing with their mouth open the whole time. What should I have done?

There are two approaches. You can either be like, "Hey what are you doing? Don't chew with your mouth open," and sit there but never see them again, or you can start chewing with your mouth open as well and just go really hardcore and try to out-open-mouth chew them. And gross them out.

Paying for dates. Who should take care of the check at the end of the meal?

I think that's whatever you want to do. I pay for everything myself whenever I take people out, but I don't think there's any downside to paying when you're the guy. That's not going to backfire on you.

What's the proper retaliation for an ex who breaks up with you via a text message?

I dunno? Uh, you can put a dead deer in the back of their car? That's probably appropriate.

Is it a good idea to research a person on Facebook before you go on a first date with them?

There are a lot of people who do that and then when they meet them they're like, "ewOh, I already know everything about you. Why did

we do this?" Keep a little mystery and don't do it. And if that's not fun? Go back to doing it.

Is Tinder a good way to meet people? Should I sign up?

Any way to meet someone is a good way to meet someone. The goal is to find someone you have this kind of spark with, so if it's through that or anything else, I don't think it really matters how you meet someone. Whenever I talk to anyone who does online dating, I feel like people who struggle the most with it are those who spend forever sending messages and don't actually meet up with people. The key to any of that stuff is to actually meet people in person after you start using it.

My boyfriend is trying to control our relationship. What do I do?

Break up with him and find a nicer guy. This is why I don't give dating advice; my stuff is very blunt.

When guys check me out when I'm around my boyfriend, he gets really possessive. What should I do?

Again ... break up with him and find a better dude, or tell him to have more confidence in himself.

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Fave five

We put Ansari on the spot and asked him to name his five favorite comedians right now. Here's who he chose:



Chelsea Peretti



Jerrod Carmichael



Joe Mande



Moshe Kasher



Hannibal Buress



INSTAGRAM

"I recently unfollowed all dogs and babies that have their own accounts, because I felt like they weren't really bringing it, so that's a pet peeve. The other pet peeve is people who post a lot, like so much."



YOUTUBE

"It's dangerous. I end up watching so many videos, but there is one video I recommend everyone check out: The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles went on the Oprah Winfrey show in the '90s, and it's pretty insane. It was a full hour [interview]. I only watched 15 minutes, which is too long probably."

think it's just trivia? think again.



geeks who drink

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tv 'The Good Wife' meets the good life

The Washington Post

Christine Baranski, who plays the besieged but derriere-kicking Chicago attorney Diane Lockhart on the CBS drama "The Good Wife," says her character has been through so much in the past few months that it was "harrowing" for both of them.

The self-mocking teaser for last Sunday's season finale—"Loyalties will be tested. Lines will be crossed. Lasagna will be served."—signals that the show's writers know viewers could use some laughs too.

Since the courtroom shooting death of Diane's law partner, Will Gardner (played by Josh Charles), she's moved not only into his role running the firm they started together but has inherited some of his "backatcha" bravado too. Through most of the show's first five seasons, Diane was elegant but understated, a moderating and mediating presence only sporadically at the center of the action while Will and "The Good Wife" herself, the Illinois governor's spouse, Alicia Florrick (Julianna Margulies), fell in love and tried to stay apart.

But that's changed now, of course—to the point that the men in the show increasingly feel like supporting characters next to three complicated, very different female stars, including the rule-bending in-house investigator Kalinda Sharma (Archie Panjabi). When Diane's smarmy, back- and front-stabbing partner David Lee (Zach Grenier) tells her, "I have some advice for you; when in mourning, don't make big decisions, at least for a year," she responds by relocating him to a back office. "Is that a big enough decision for you?"

In a phone interview just ahead of the finale, Baranski said her character's evolution is on fast-forward because Diane is "living very



Christine Baranski in 'The Good Wife'

close to the bone" after losing the judgeship that was her life's ambition and feeling so personally betrayed when Alicia and Cary left the firm. Then, "when she was just getting back on terra firma with Will" after speaking ill of him in an interview, she lost him forever.

Asked who she's looked to for inspiration in bringing Diane alive, Baranski immediately answers that "obviously, Hillary Clinton" is in the mix. There's the Chicago connection, of course, and the combination of high-mindedness and personal ambition. Diane "holds herself to a very high standard, is someone who reads David Brooks religiously," according to Baranski, and was "a daddy's girl."

Her Diane also has been doing some serious martini-swilling lately—though not to the extent of her character on '90s sitcom "Cybill." Baranski says her post-funeral martini scene with Alicia was one of her favorites in a season she feels might have been their best.

"I always thought there's no reason why those two women shouldn't be friends, and I love that over the course of five years, as other relationships are falling away, they are more and more moving through the world on their own authority," she said.

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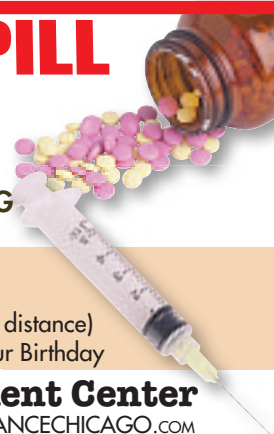
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Ruffalo learns lessons of 'The Normal Heart'

Los Angeles Times

Mark Ruffalo, knowing his host liked sweets, showed up at playwright Larry Kramer's Manhattan home with pastries in tow—unaware that the then-77-year-old's health now restricted such pleasures.

It was spring of last year and the actor was set to begin production on the long-attempted film adaptation of Kramer's groundbreaking 1985 AIDS-political play, "The Normal Heart." Little did he know it, but Ruffalo's true audition was just beginning.

"Are you queer?" the playwright asked right off.

"No, I'm not queer."

"Have you read my book?"

"No."

"Well, you have to read it, otherwise you can't fully play this part."

Ruffalo called it his moment of recognition. "He was testing me," the 46-year-old actor said with the sort of sheepish smile that hindsight

affords. "And I remember just feeling a sense of fear in that moment."

The actor, who has played roles ranging from a brawny green superhero to a hapless sperm donor for a lesbian couple, now takes on Kramer's quasi-autobiographical Ned Weeks, the ornery gay activist at the center of "The Normal Heart" who fervently tries to shake the public to action after a mysterious disease begins plaguing the gay community in the early '80s.

After enduring a winding road from stage to screen, the story, which was significantly reworked, ultimately came to be marshaled and directed by Ryan Murphy and premieres Sunday on HBO.

The film, which also stars Julia Roberts, Matt Bomer and Taylor Kitsch, comes on the heels of last year's critically acclaimed "Dallas Buyers Club" and the 2012 documentary "How to Survive a Plague," both of which tackled the early years of the AIDS crisis. That it finally has an air date is its own victory.



Mark Ruffalo (left) and Taylor Kitsch in 'The Normal Heart'

"It was one of those projects that was almost mythical in its inability to get made over the course of 30 years," Murphy said.

It's a period Ruffalo had lived through on the opposite coast, in Los Angeles, reading about the unexplained virus as a teenager. "It felt like a pandemic. And I was young, so I was still idealistic, and it was jarring to see the inhumane response to it all," he recalled. "It didn't compute. But Larry was right, I didn't fully understand how deep it went."

The pair's initial sit-down lasted three hours. From there, a friendship started. And the tutelage followed. The legendary—and di-

visive—figure in the gay rights movement offered a master class of sorts, sharing photos and stories of the places and people at the heart of the turmoil. He even offered Ruffalo his round-framed glasses for use in the film.

"To be played by such a fine and handsome actor, [I should have looked this good.]" Kramer wrote of Ruffalo. "We hung out together a lot, and I didn't ask myself, 'Can he play me?' Actors are hired to portray, and good ones like Mark make it their job to go for it all out, which Mark did. He was also extremely passionate about his taking on the part, consumed with it. And this was very touching to me."

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games

THREE TO PLAY

BY RYAN SMITH | FOR REDEYE



Super Time Force

Xbox 360, Xbox One

Just because a game is retro doesn't mean it can't be instilled with new ideas. Take "Super Time Force." At first it feels like another

breezy trip down 8-bit nostalgia lane, but the game quickly throws an inventive twist into the crude side-scrolling action. With a tap of a button, players can pause the game, rewind it like an old VCR tape, then send a soldier through a time-travel loophole. It doesn't erase your previous self, meaning you can fight alongside up to 30 identical clones. "Super Time Force" doubles as a hilariously over-the-top '80s parody, complete with characters such as Jean Rambois (the French version of "Rambo"), a skateboarding dinosaur and, best of all, the bazooka-shooting Jef Leppard. Seriously, "Super Time Force" is totally radical, dude!



'Super Time Force'



Record Run

iPhone, iPad

This mobile title from the makers of "Rock Band" attempts to combine swipe-happy endless runners such

as "Temple Run" with rhythm-based music games. You play as a hipster audiophile who must collect vinyl records while sprinting along a street, avoiding dogs, furniture, dancing duos and more. Players may be attracted by the ability to import their own iTunes collection as background music for playable stages, but game and songs just don't mesh that well. To add insult to injury, you have to pay real money to add more than a few tunes. "Record Run" is a mashup of two genres that belongs in the App Store bargain bin.



Kirby: Triple Deluxe

Nintendo 3DS

It might sound like an oversize McDonald's burger, but

"Kirby: Triple Deluxe" instead serves up another side-scrolling adventure starring Nintendo's marshmallowy mascot. Using Kirby's vacuum-like powers of inhaling and spitting out enemies and objects, you once again explore a so-cute-it-hurts world of rainbows and candy and stars. This time, our blobby hero is in full three-dimensional glory and has a new power called "Hypernova" that allows him to uproot a tree or chow down on guided missiles. If you can stomach a cartoonish aesthetic reminiscent of a fourth-grade girl's Trapper Keeper, Kirby's a pleasant diversion for Nintendo's handheld system.

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music MINIMIZING CONFRONTATION

Fuzzy indie rockers Swearin' keep competitiveness, profanity (mostly) to a minimum

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

Allison Crutchfield, singer/guitarist for fuzz-loving indie rock quartet Swearin', isn't afraid to give voice to unpopular opinions.

"I was talking about [NBC's acclaimed drama 'Friday Night Lights'] recently, and I was like, 'Wow, I really prefer [Matt] Saracen to [Tim] Riggins,'" said Crutchfield, 25, by phone from her home in New York. "It's funny that's such an unpopular opinion because [Saracen] is so clearly the better person."

Oddly enough, the band's latest album, "Surfing Strange," has at least a few characteristics in common with Julie Taylor's on again/off again boyfriend. (Side note: If you've never seen "Friday Night Lights," do something about that immediately.) The record combines youthful energy with growing world-weariness, reflected in lyrics that dwell on subjects such as regret, the sting of heartache and, on "Dust in the Gold Sack," various "grudges unrequited." It also includes the occasional musical outburst, which, as it turns out, isn't entirely unheard of from the singer.

Swearin'
7:30 p.m. Thurs.
May 29 at
Empty Bottle
\$10-\$12

Considering the band name, I was wondering if you could recall the last time you cursed somebody out?

Ooh. It's probably been awhile. I feel like I used to curse people out a lot more than I do now. I'm sure it was at a show when someone was doing something that bothered me. That was probably the last time it happened. And there was probably a lot of alcohol involved [Laughs].

The first time you were all in the same room together was actually at the first band rehearsal. At what point did you know these were people you were going to be able to get along with and make music with?

Personally, we clicked right off the bat. Musically, it took a couple practices before I was like, "This is definitely going to work." With bands I've been in in the past, you sit down at that first practice and it either clicks or it doesn't, ... and then you don't do the band. With Swearin' we clicked well as people, but it was a little rocky [musically] when we first started, which was a new experience for me for sure.

Did you consider walking away at that point? Or did you like everyone so much you wanted to give it more time to develop?

Oh, it was never the type of thing where I was like, "This isn't working. I'm done." But it wasn't as natural initially as it was with other bands, and that might have been because this was one of the first bands I did without my sister [Waxahatchee singer/songwriter Katie Crutchfield], so maybe I was a little self-conscious. But I always knew it was something I wanted to keep doing because I loved making music with these people so much.

You mentioned this being one of the first bands you've been in without your sister. Was there a sense you needed to branch out and establish your own musical identity?

Absolutely. We were in [now-defunct band] P.S. Eliot together for a long time, and ... it got to the point where we felt we had done everything we wanted to do. I was starting



to write songs when the idea started developing that we were going to stop being in that band together, so I think we just naturally went in different directions.

Outside of music, is there any sense of sibling rivalry between you and Katie? Are you insanely competitive playing flip cup or anything?

[Laughs] It's funny because she and I are not competitive [people]. We both hate

sports. If people are going to be playing games, we're both like, "No," and we'll kind of both sit on the sidelines or go for a walk. We both, in most areas of our lives, are repelled by situations where there are competitive aspects. But we have sibling rivalry just as much as anyone else does, just in an unspoken sort of way. It's not like there's one specific thing, I guess.

You grew up listening to musicals. Do you

Swearin'

still hope to write one someday?

I absolutely do. It's a long-term dream to write a musical, so hopefully that will happen. It's intimidating to me because it's a totally different world. I've given a little bit [of thought to the plot]. I'd probably like to collaborate with another person. My sister talked about doing it someday, if we ever have

Watch
at **redeye**
chicago.com:
"Dust in the Gold
Sack"

enough time. Hopefully that will happen.

Could you give me a little preview of the plot?

I will just say it's based on a dream I had, but I think that's all the detail I can give away right now.

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5/23 & 24 **Jackopierce**

5/26 **French Quarter Fest
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Jeffery Broussard & the
Creole Cowboys and
the Sanctified Grumblers

6/1 **Jukebox Groove (2pm)**

6/4 **Chicago Latin Dance
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Latin Dance Night**

6/8 **Chicago Jazz
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Owen Pallett,
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Plaid, Thursday, July
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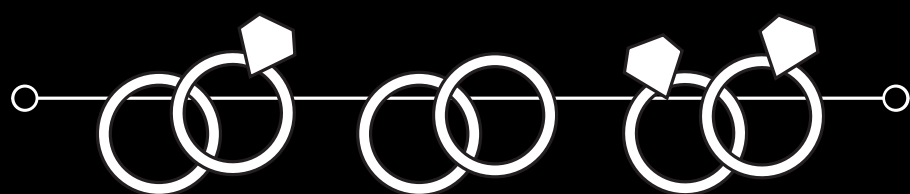
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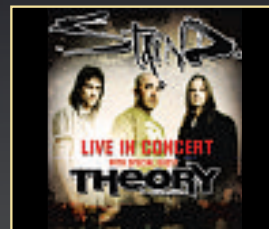
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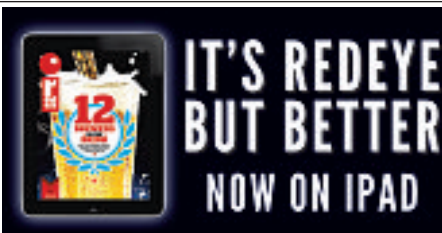
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music



Thalia Hall
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Thalia Hall brings music back to Pilsen

By Ernest Wilkins | REDEYE

Last year, Bruce Finkelman (Empty Bottle) and Craig Golden (Longman & Eagle, Space) teamed up to reopen Thalia Hall, a Chicago landmark originally opened in 1892 at the corner of 18th and Allport streets to serve as a community arts center for Pilsen. Dusek's, the venue's restaurant, and Punch House, the basement bar, quickly gained citywide attention. Now, the owners are adding a live music destination to a South Side largely lacking in the packed music venues and nightclubs that thrived in the '50s and '60s.

On Wednesday, Thalia Hall launches as a music venue with a sold-out show from Animal Collective member Panda Bear (real name: Noah Lennox). The space's upcoming schedule is as unpredictable as Panda Bear, with acts ranging from veterans such as Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle (June 6) to newer bands including bizarre Swedish rockers Goat (June 13). Thalia Hall talent booker Brent Heyl, who compares the venue's space to Metro, says the eclectic offerings are deliberate.

"There's a great art scene and a culture of music, and there's not a centralized music venue for people to go to in this neighborhood," he said. "What we're doing is revisiting the original concept that the building served when it opened. The goal is to not only feature music but also other cultural events, like theater and art, combined in one space. We're not going to say, 'Oh, we're only putting on electronic dance music or punk rock shows.' You see Panda Bear, but then we're doing a cumbia night the next week,

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The Mavericks June 8, \$36

Mixing the best of genres such as Tejano, garage rock and American country, this Florida-based band rocks and might get you dancing.

Goat June 13, \$12-\$22

It's an experimental rock band from Sweden that wears wild costumes and claims to be under the influence of voodoo. What else do you need?

Gregory Porter Oct. 14, \$35-\$450

The jazz singer is an underrated gem with an easily embraced approach to a classic genre. Start with 2013's "Liquid Spirit," a wonderful introduction to his style.

then a band like Goat. Our goal is to present good music."

Some might wonder what a new venue could do to stand out in a city full of renowned spots for live music. Heyl says the goal is long-term loyalty over short-term hype.

"With these newer acts, we want the opportunity to grow with these bands," he said. "For instance, we did a show with Nils Frahm in February where he sold out the Chopin Theater. That's 100 seats. Next thing you know, he's selling out Lincoln Hall, and now he'll be at Thalia [Nov. 16]. Goat sold out Empty Bottle. These acts might not be ready for these huge rooms, but we're the next step to get to that point."

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Ike Holter (left) with Anthony Moseley, Collaboraction artistic director and Sketchbook 2049 director

Etch-a-sketch

Prolific playwright Ike Holter curates Collaboraction's Sketchbook 2049

By Julia Borcherts | FOR REDEYE

Most playwrights are thrilled to see a single work produced, ever. Local scribe Ike Holter, however, has had dozens of plays produced on stages ranging from New York to Atlanta to his own backyard—and he's only 28.

Right now, Holter has two running concurrently in Chicago. First, Jackalope Theatre is staging the world premiere of "Exit Strategy," about Chicago school closings at Broadway Armory Park, through June 15. Second, "Hit the Wall"—the breakout smash from Steppenwolf's 2012 Garage Rep series about the 1969 Stonewall Riots, which was reprised at Theater on the Lake and mounted Off-Broadway at the Barrow Street Theatre—is being produced by the Chicago Commercial Collective at the Greenhouse Theater

Sketchbook

Go: 7:30 p.m. Thursday through June 15 at Collaboraction, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., Room 300 **Tickets:** \$30 per program or \$50 for both programs; \$15-\$25 for students. 312-226-9633; collaboraction.org.

through Sunday.

Not only that, Holter—who grew up in Minneapolis and moved to Chicago at 18 to attend the Theatre School at DePaul University, co-founding both Nothing Without a Company while in school and, upon graduation, The Inconvenience—is the guest curator for Collaboraction's annual Sketchbook festival. The fest features 17 short pieces by Seth Bockley ("Ask Aunt Susan"), Caitlin Parish ("A Twist of Water"), The New Colony's Joel Kim Booster, American Theater Company's Usman Ally and others. More than 150 local and national directors, designers, actors,

musicians and other artists come together to make it happen.

This year, the festival is titled Sketchbook 2049, and the plays are presented in two 90-minute programs that run in rotating repertory. We called Holter to find out more about his work, the Sketchbook fest and how he juggles it all. (Hint: Whiskey is sometimes involved.)

What's new at this year's Sketchbook

"It's going to be a lot more loose and alive and maybe a little sexier, you know? I think it's good that we've got short pieces this year—pieces as short as a minute and then pieces as long as 15 minutes—whereas usually Sketchbook is much thicker. It's usually about four and a half to five hours, but this is 90 minutes and 90 minutes—basically a big, three-hour show split in half."

On Saturdays, you can see both programs with pop-up lobby

performances in between

"It's going to be crazy. We're going to have some music nights, we're going to have vaudeville performance nights, and we're going to have some weird Collaboraction stuff [laughs] that can't really be described. The impetus is to make it feel like an old-school Collaboraction Sketchbook from maybe five or six years ago. It's more of a party atmosphere—it's not a 'sit down and enjoy the show' performance; it's a 'get up mid-show, get a drink, sit down, you're gonna see some weird stuff—and then you're gonna move over here and see some new stuff.'"

Why Collaboraction incorporated the year 2049 into the title:

"These pieces are about people looking to the future with hesitant eyes and making decisions in the moment, pushing into the future. There's some surprising scene stuff that we're going to do at the top of the show to cement that. These aren't sketches so much as moments before big changes in people's lives. We see these small pocket moments, and then we as the

audience have to assume or guess what comes next and how these people change after that.”

The program includes a piece by Holter

“I wanted to write about people doing what people do, which is hook up late night at a party. But I wanted more significance. It touches on subjects like race, and it touches on subjects like class and locations within the Chicago community. There’s a young woman from Pilsen and then a young man from the North Side. And what starts as very cute and this sexy, light comedy turns quite quickly to something dark and ominous. These people grow and change within 10 minutes, and their lives aren’t the same after it.”

His writing style

“I like to think my shows are really accessible ‘cause they’re funny. Basically, my only rule writing is, ‘Write something that you would want to see.’ And I have pretty eclectic tastes, so I don’t like to stick with the same style or the same themes. I like to talk about what’s not being talked about ‘cause that’s usually the stuff that I gravitate to as an audience member. And sometimes the stuff is political, sometimes it’s sexy, sometimes it’s more viscerally charged. And it showcases some people onstage that you don’t usually see.”

An example of one of his non-traditional shows

“I did this trilogy—ripped off ‘Are You Afraid of the Dark,’ that old Nickelodeon show.

And this is kind of the way I define my style: I said, ‘OK, we can have musical numbers within the fight scenes and have all this overlapping stuff.’ I did it in my backyard for, like, 400 people a show.”

His favorite plays that he’s written

“These two shows playing right now—I really, really dig them. There’s nights where you can go from seeing a matinee of ‘Exit Strategy’ over at Jackalope, and then you can make the 7 p.m. performance of ‘Hit the Wall.’ And those two shows together create a pretty good thesis double feature of the kind of writing I want to do. I wrote ‘Hit the Wall’ starting in 2011, and I just added the last lines into ‘Exit Strategy’ last

night when we opened. So I think those shows together create a bookend of the last four to five years of my life.”

“

I rollerblade a lot, and when I rollerblade I listen to everything from Jay Z to Barbra Streisand and I just think about plays, I think about characters. And when you’re going that fast down Lake Shore Drive, things start happening in your head.”

—**Ike Holter** on how he gets inspired to write so much

How he gets inspired to write so much

“I rollerblade a lot, and when I rollerblade, I listen to everything from Jay Z to Barbra Streisand, and I just think about plays, I think about characters. And when you’re going that fast down Lake Shore Drive, things start happening in your head.”

How he unwinds

“I’m a big party-thrower. I love having people over at my house; I have a bonfire every few weeks. I see a lot of movies; I am a summer-movie junkie. I am a TV junkie—I gotta get my ‘Game of Thrones.’ [Laughs.] And I’m a writer, so there’s whiskey involved. [Laughs.]”

The worst play he ever wrote

“It’s a show called ‘Vaudeville vs. ATL’—ATL as in Atlanta. And it was a show that I got commissioned to do in Atlanta almost 10 years ago. I went down there with my theater company—Nothing Without a Company—and we didn’t have a script, so as we were on the road, I started writing it. We go in the theater, and we rehearsed for seven days as I was still writing it. And then it opened and it was terrible!”

What’s on tap next

“It’s so weird. I just opened ‘Exit Strategy,’ and I’m actually having a little bit of a hangover from last night’s party. [Laughs.] But I’m doing two larger readings this

summer.” [Confidentiality agreements won’t allow him to name the companies staging the readings of his two plays just yet.]

And after that?

“I’m doing a Beyoncé-inspired—purely in terms of marketing—musical where 10 days before we open, we just announce that we’re doing it, capturing that Beyoncé style, like, you drop something and just hope people are there to pick it up. It’s just getting away from these huge shows that take months to produce and doing something with about 10 of my really close friends and running it for a couple weekends and seeing what happens. I can’t tell you any dates or [a] plot synopsis, but we’re working hard on it. It’s going to be awesome.”



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An Alberta Ferretti tunic dress for \$170? A Diane von Furstenberg tote for \$155? And shopping for a good cause, too?

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The items are available to buy at **shopbop.com** (type "Born Free" in the search field) as part of a new capsule collection launched to support the private-sector-led charity initiative Born Free Africa, which aims to end mother-to-child HIV transmission by Dec. 31, 2015.

Kenya-born, New York-based contemporary artist Wangechi Mutu collaborated with 22 fashion designers on the Born Free collection, including J. Crew's Jenna Lyons, Miuccia Prada, Tory Burch and Isabel Marant. Items include drawstring pants, lady-like skirts, peasant blouses, and scarves for women and children. All proceeds from sales benefit the organization.

The capsule is part of a series of fashion industry-led actions this spring to highlight

the global effort to achieve a generation free of HIV.

An article about the effort in the May issue of *Vogue* features photos by Annie Leibovitz following Victoria Beckham and model-designer-advocate Liya Kebede as they visited South Africa to learn about the work being done there to end mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

Diane von Furstenberg Diaper Bag, \$155

Prada skirt, \$245

J. Crew pants, \$175



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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

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TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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ACROSS

- 1 Uncertain
5 Actor Romero
10 "Get lost!"
14 Mah-jongg piece
15 South-of-the-border friend
16 Well-; rich
17 Large family group
18 Meat shunner
20 Skirt's edge
21 Plant with fronds
22 Like tropical weather
23 Tiny fruit
25 Silken sash
26 Untie
28 Satisfy a thirst
31 Cairo's nation
32 Sulking
34 Shoot carefully
36 Ravel at the edge
37 Apostle who betrayed Jesus
38 City slicker on a ranch
39 Reasonable bedtime
40 about; discuss lightly
41 Casts a ballot
42 Like a twinkling night sky
44 Enjoy greatly
45 Hydrogen or oxygen
46 Slogan
47 Obama's VP
50 Mediocre
51 Prefix for fat or sense
54 Indirect
57 Boy or man
58 Floored
59 Stop
60 Region
61 Facts & figures
62 Narrow candle
63 Liquid-filled sac in the body

DOWN

- 1 Poison ivy symptom
2 Rank and _; commoners
3 Flashy
4 Japan's dollar
5 Grotto
6 _ board; nail file
7 Endorse
8 Grow older
9 Go bad
10 Overexert
11 Bedspring
12 Sandler or Rich
13 Theater award
19 Monk's home
21 Worry
24 Catch sight of
25 Pitcher's delights
26 Departed
27 Monsters
28 Ferry's landing place
29 Like a warning
30 Conceals
32 Way too small
33 Bizarre
35 Come together, as gears
37 Disturbs; jolts
38 Nincompoop
40 Put one's mark on cattle
41 Refuse to allow
43 Chairman's list
44 List of members
46 Small rodent
47 Actor Garrett
48 Des Moines, _
49 Song for two
50 Ivory or Dial
52 Bullring cheers
53 Shipshape
55 Skit
56 Actress Arthur
57 Apple computer

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TODAY IN THE YEAR...

1832: The first Democratic National Convention got underway, in Baltimore.
1927: Charles Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean.
1979: Former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the slayings of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.

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He's so CHANNING

The 'Magic Mike' star is the most normal of dudes, bro

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

What's the best part of a celebrity doing a magazine cover interview? (Hint: It's not seeing which restaurant they ate at.) No, it's reading all the ridiculous, unfiltered quotes that spew forth. Such is the case with the **June issue of GQ**: Cover boy and regular Joe Channing Tatum is at his finest. Can you spot which of the quotes below belong to Channing and which came from one of his characters? It won't be easy. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | REDEYEDANA

- 1 "Only a true insane person would try and play a gimp that's on a leash with reserve and dignity, in my opinion."
- 2 "I really thought this job would have more car chases and explosions ... and less homeless people doo-dooing everywhere."
- 3 "I just love cake. Confetti cake, to be specific. It has little colored candies inside the cake, and then you get the confetti icing, which is really hard to find sometimes. It's really hard to explain to people, because it's not icing with sprinkles on top. It's icing that actually has candies inside of it. It's Funfetti icing."
- 4 "What about going to Color Me Mine? It's like a pottery place that you get to paint your own pottery."
- 5 "Well, a few days ago I kissed this girl at a kissing booth. And now, I just can't seem to stop thinking about it."
- 6 "It's terrible and it's bad, but I really do think it's because I have an inner fat kid in me. If I didn't enjoy sports so much. ... My dad was 370 pounds at one point. I definitely have that. I can completely lose myself into just absolutely satisfying things—a really amazing cheeseburger, a pizza, good fries, a beer. I enjoy being comfortable and eating whatever the hell I like."
- 7 "I will kiss your tip! I will kiss the tip of your [bleep] through your underwear if we make \$35 million."
- 8 "I probably drink too much, you know. My wife, that's what she bought into. ... I'm probably a pretty high-functioning, I guess, you know, I would say, alcoholic, I guess."
- 9 "Oh, you don't wanna know what I have to do for 20s."

ANSWER KEY

1. Channing on his cameo in "This Is The End"
2. Channing in "21 Jump Street"
3. Channing on, um, cake
4. Channing choosing his interview spot
5. Channing in "She's The Man"
6. Channing, on why "The Biggest Loser" is one of his favorite shows
7. Channing on a related bet he made with costar Jonah Hill
8. Channing on his alcohol consumption
9. Channing in "Magic Mike"

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red hot



←
Ciara

THE DIGIT

7.2 million

That's how many people watched the premiere of "The **Maya Rudolph Show**," **vulture.com** reports. The show is NBC's attempt to bring back the traditional variety-hour format. Let's hope it does well—everyone needs more Maya.

Home for 'Christmas'

Joe Swanberg fans have reason to cheer: The trailer for the Chicago director's "Happy Christmas" is here! (Yes, we meant for that to rhyme.) The film, which was veeeeeeery obviously filmed in Chicago, follows Swanberg and his wife (played by Melanie Lynskey) as they deal with the arrival of Swanberg's hot-mess sister (Anna Kendrick). Flannel and drunken makeouts obviously ensue. The movie hits theaters July 25.



Oh my Godzilla

We know one giant, angry lizard who gives this news two "RAAAAAAAAAAAAAWR"s up. **Deadline.com** reports that a sequel to the new "Godzilla" is in the works, on the heels of the flick's \$93 million opening weekend. Who and/or what will be crushed this time? We'll just have to wait to find out—a release date has yet to be announced.

THE FUTURE IS NOW

Congrats are in order for Ciara and Future. The musical mama gave birth Monday to Future Zahir Wilburn, who, according to an Instagram post, weighed in at 9 pounds, 10 ounces. Of note: Poppa Future's actual name is Nayvadius, so Lil' Future has an all-original first name. Welcome to the world!



I can't imagine Grandma would be

very best pleased. I'm sure she'd want to keep it true British roots. William always seems like the quiet one, but he'd secretly love it. Takes all the eyes off him. And I think Kate'd really enjoy having an American as a sister-in-law."

—"I Wanna Marry Harry" star Matthew Hicks, to RedEye, on what Prince Harry's family would think about him dating an American girl.



Matthew Hicks
GETTY IMAGES
PHOTOS



THE DIGIT
\$1,242

That's how much Arsenio Hall had raised as of Tuesday afternoon in his IndieGoGo campaign to buy the L.A. Clippers. His goal? \$1 billion. Let's get real here: If Arsenio Hall raises \$1 billion, he'd be a lot better off buying a private island.